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PTQ1552

RELEASED IN PART
B2PAGE 01 CARACA 03932 01 OF 02 101304Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	A-00	CA-01	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	UTED-00	CSEP-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00
	VCE-00	MFLO-03	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OMB-01
	DHS-00	CAEX-01	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00

/013W

-----155A5F 101304Z /75

O 101051Z DEC 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8904
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMCONSUL CURACAO
USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL//J2//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 003932

DEPT FOR CA/OCS/ACS/WHA FOR IAN S. GRAY, WHA/AND, WHA/EX
DEPT ALSO FOR S/S-O, S/S-O/DS, DS/IP/WHA, DS/DSS/ITA,
DS/OP/WHA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, APER, ASEC, CASC, CMGT, KFLO, PGOV, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: CARACAS SITREP NO. 4; DECEMBER 9, 2002; 2400 HRS.

1. OVERALL SITUATION:

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EVENTS SINCE LAST SITREP:

AT ABOUT 1900 HOURS, THE GOVERNMENT MEDIA WERE ISSUING
MULTIPLE CALLS FOR THEIR SUPPORTERS TO TAKE TO THE STREETS. BY
2130 HRS. THE EMBASSY'S CALL CENTER BEGAN RECEIVING REPORTS
THAT BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES (BCS) WOULD BE DEMONSTRATING OUTSIDE
TV AND RADIO STATIONS THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 9. THE MEDIA
REPORTED THAT BCS HAD BROKEN INTO THE TVS STATION IN MARACAY
(AN AFFILIATE OF GLOBOVISION) IN ARAGUA STATE. EMBASSY PAS
OFFICER WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM EVENTS IN MARACAY, BUT THE TVS
STATION IS NOW OFF THE AIR. AT ABOUT 2200 HOURS, GLOBOVISION
TV STATION (WHO PRESIDENT CHAVEZ ACCUSED OF TRYING TO
OVERTHROW HIM ON HIS &ALO PRESIDENTE8 PROGRAM ON DECEMBER
8) REPORTED A CROWD OF BCS DEMONSTRATING AROUND THE TV

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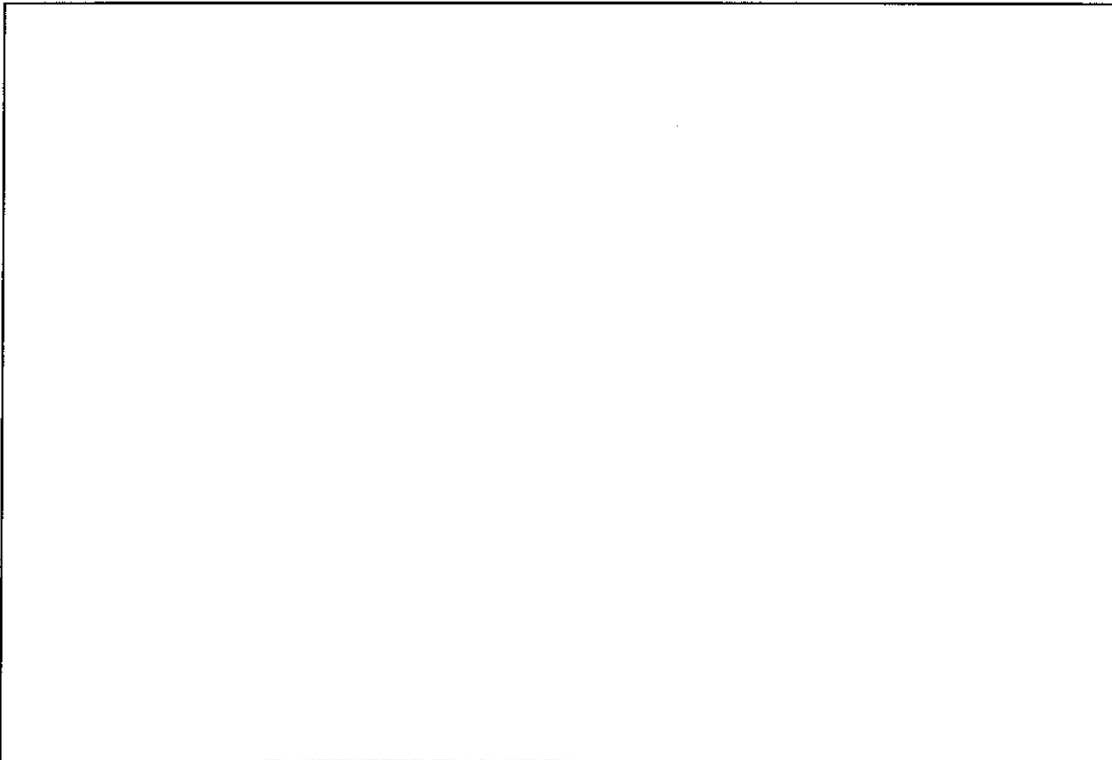
STATION. WE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT TWO POLICEMEN WERE INJURED AT THIS SITE ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS. TWO OTHER NEWSPAPER OFFICES IN ARAGUA STATE, EL SIGLO AND EL ARAGUENO, ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY SURROUNDED BY BCS. OTHER NEWS MEDIA ARE ALSO REPORTING BEING SURROUNDED BY BCS, SOME MEDIA CENTERS HAVING PROTECTION BY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS. ONE EMBASSY SOURCE AND SEVERAL U.S. CITIZENS HAVE TELEPHONED THE CALL CENTER THIS EVENING TO REPORT THAT PEOPLE FROM THE BARRIOS WILL DESCEND INTO THE CITY, ADVISING ALL TO STAY HOME.

OAS SECGEN GAVIRIA SPOKE ON TV AT 2300 HOURS, CONDEMNING THE "INTIMIDATING ACTIONS OF PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATORS, AND THEIR TAKEOVER OF TVS STATION IN MARACAY.8 GAVIRIA CONDEMNED THE &ACTIONS INTENDING TO IMPEDE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS8 AND CALLED ON GOV AUTHORITIES TO IMMEDIATELY PUT AN END TO THESE THREATS.

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VARIOUS EMBASSY CONTACTS REPORT THAT PRESIDENT CHAVEZ IS MEETING WITH MILITARY LEADERS. AT ABOUT 2300 HOURS, MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE CABELLO CONDEMNED THE OPPOSITION AS "GOLPISTAS" AND DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MILITARY COUP. HE ALSO CALLED FOR PEACE AND TRANQUILITY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION:



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	DHS-00	CAEX-01	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
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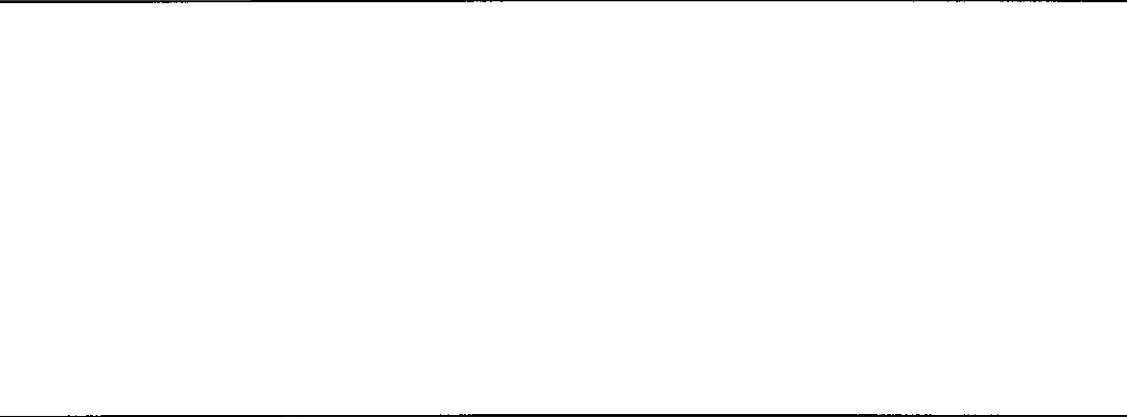
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